

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS 7969

UNCLAS STATE 197766

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 20898 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CARACAS  
& USUN NEW YORK DATED 4 SEPT 1974:

QTE

UNCLAS PARIS 20898

CARACAS FOR USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS FR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED  
MINING AND 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: STATE 193107

1. WE BELIEVE THAT INTENSITY OF FRENCH REACTION TO  
POSSIBLE UNILATERAL US STEPS ON LOS QUESTIONS WOULD  
DEPEND ON WHICH ONE OF BILLS WAS PASSED. FRENCH WOULD  
OF COURSE BE DISAPPOINTED AT PASSAGE OF EITHER BILL,  
WHICH THEY WOULD SEE AS PREJUDICIAL TO CHANCES OF  
NEGOTIATING PACKAGE AGREEMENT IN WHICH THEIR LOS AIMS  
CAN BEST BE MET. GOF REACTION, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO BE  
LIMITED TO ATTACKS ON US ACTION AND/OR EFFORTS TO LIMIT  
DAMAGE TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

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2. FRENCH INTERESTS WOULD BE MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED

WERE FISHERIES BILL TO PASS: GOF (AS MARITIME AND DISTANT-FISHING NATION) OPPOSES EXCLUSIVE COASTAL STATE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES, AS WELL AS UNILATERALLY DECLARED 200-MILE ZONES. WHILE ANGERED BY SUCH US ACTION, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT RETALIATE BY SIMILAR EXTENSION OF FISHERIES ZONE AS THIS WOULD PREJUDICE THEIR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE IMPORTANT WEST AFRICAN FISHERIES.

3. GOF REACTION TO POSSIBLE USG LICENSING ACTIONS ON DEEP SEABEDS LIKELY TO BE LESS ACID. FRENCH THEMSELVES HAVE FAVORED WEAK INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OVER EXPLOITATION (AND MAXIMUM ROLE FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS). THEY WOULD NONETHELESS ATTACK UNILATERAL NATURE OF US ACTION (UNDER INTERNATIONALLY ALLOCATED LICENSES FRENCH COMPANIES COULD HOPE TO GET MORE CONTRACTS THAN UNDER FREE COMPETITION). BUT HERE AGAIN WE DO NOT SEE ANY RETALIATORY ACTION THEY COULD OR WOULD TAKE. STONE UNQTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, SEABED, MINING, FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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